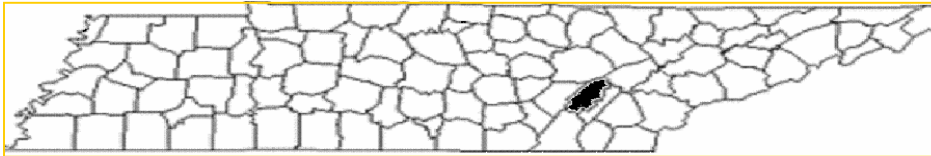


The Status of Women in Rhea County



STATUS OF WOMEN IN RHEA COUNTY: AN OVERVIEW

INSIDE

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| INDICATOR | DATA | COUNTY RANKING |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------|------------------|
| | | (of 95 Counties) |
| COMPOSITE EMPLOYMENT & EARNINGS INDEX | 54.60 | 69 |
| Women's Annual Earnings | \$21,063 | 45 |
| Women's Earnings as a Percentage of Men's Earnings (Wage Gap) | 70.1% | 63 |
| Women's Labor Force Participation Rate | 41.3% | 54 |
| Female Unemployment Rate | 8.5% | 87 |
| Women in Managerial or Professional Occupations | 29.4% | 24 |
| COMPOSITE ECONOMIC AUTONOMY INDEX | 62.63 | 81 |
| Businesses that are Women-Owned (% of total) | 25.6% | 25 |
| Women with a Four-Year College Degree (%) | 9.5% | 57 |
| Women With a High School Diploma (%) | 68.0% | 56 |
| Female High School Dropout Rate | 18.3% | 94 |
| Women with any Kind of Health Insurance Coverage (%) | 91.2% | 57 |
| Women Earning Incomes Below the Poverty Level (%) | 16.7% | 59 |
| Single Female-Headed Households Living In Poverty (%) | 13.1% | 84 |
| Adolescent Pregnancy Rate (Ages 10-19) | 38.2 | 69 |

Report Overview: This publication on the Status of Women in Rhea County is part of a statewide publication of the Tennessee Economic Council on Women, *The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties, 2004*. The Economic Council on Women is a State agency created under TCA § 4-50-100, et seq. by the One Hundredth General Assembly in 1998 to address the economic needs of Tennessee women.

The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties

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Women have taken remarkable strides towards economic equality, from education to earnings to political participation. Women are now pursuing goals such as business ownership, leadership roles in their careers, and election to state and federal political office. However, obstacles still exist in the climb toward equality. Nationwide, equal numbers of men and women are obtaining four-year college degrees; however, these gains have not translated into pay equity. The average college-educated woman working full time earns \$44,200 a year compared to \$61,800 for men in the same category. Women are still under-represented in many of the highest paying, fastest growing sectors of the economy. Helping women break into these traditionally male-dominated areas like computer science, engineering, mathematics and technology, as well as all skilled-labor positions, gives women tools for self-sufficiency and understanding of their personal capabilities, and these advances are good for the economy of our counties and of our state.

Employment and Earnings

The employment and earnings index includes data on women's annual earnings, the earnings gender gap, female labor force participation rate, the female unemployment rate, and the percent of women in managerial or professional occupations.

- ◇ Women in Rhea County have median annual earnings of \$21,063 while their male counterparts have median earnings of \$30,066 annually.
- ◇ Of Rhea County women, 41.3% participate in the labor force and women represent 45.3% of the county's work force.
- ◇ Women in Rhea County are almost twice as likely to be unemployed than women in neighboring Bledsoe County. Women in Rhea County have an unemployment rate of 8.5% significantly higher than the overall county rate of 6.4%.
- ◇ In Rhea County 29.4% of working women are employed in managerial or professional jobs while 18.5% of all employed persons work in such occupations in the county.

Economic Autonomy

The economic autonomy index includes information on educational attainment, business ownership and general quality of life issues.

- ◇ Rhea County is in the bottom half of counties in seven of the eight economic autonomy indicators.
- ◇ The current female high school dropout rate is almost 19 percent, ranking Rhea 94th among counties. Still, higher percentages of women than men have high school diplomas. Just 65.3% of all county residents have a high-school level degree.
- ◇ 9.5% of women have a four-year college degree in Rhea County while 9.1% of all county residents have such a degree.
- ◇ Almost 17 percent of working women earn incomes below the poverty level within Rhea County.
- ◇ Though 11.4% of families are in poverty in the county, 40.4% of families with a female householder and no husband present live in poverty.
- ◇ Women-owned businesses only account for just 5.2% of the total sales and receipts of privately-owned firms in Rhea County even though 25.6% of all private firms are women-owned.

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| | | Rhea County | Rank of Rhea County | Highest Ranking County |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Earnings | Median Annual Earnings for FT Females | \$21,063 | 45 | Williamson: \$32,243 |
| | Wage Gap | 70.1% | 63 | Davidson: 82.1% |
| Employment | Female Labor Force Participa- tion Rate | 41.3% | 54 | Rutherford: 50.9% |
| | Female Unemployment Rate | 8.5% | 87 | Pickett: 1.5% |
| | Percent of Employed Females in Management, Prof., and Related Occupations | 29.4% | 24 | Anderson: 44.6% |
| | Women Owned Business % of Total | 25.6% | 25 | Moore: 63.3% |
| Education | % of Females with 4 Year Degree or Better | 9.5% | 57 | Williamson: 39.5% |
| | % of Females with High School Diploma (or equiva- lency) | 68.0% | 56 | Williamson: 90.6% |
| | Female Dropout Rate | 18.3% | 94 | Clay/Pickett: 0.0% |
| Lifestyles | % of Women with any kind of Health Insurance Coverage | 91.2% | 57 | Montgomery/ Williamson: 100% |
| | % of Women Living Below Poverty Level Incomes | 16.7% | 59 | Williamson: 5.4% |
| | % of all Female Headed Households with Children in Poverty | 13.1% | 84 | Williamson: 2.5% |
| | Rate of Pregnancy of Girls Aged 10-19 per 1000 | 38.2 | 69 | Williamson: 1.2% |

ABOUT THE COUNCIL AND THIS REPORT

Rhea County

The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties report offers an economic profile of women in each county of Tennessee and examines how women's rights and equality vary among the counties. The report presents data and overall rankings in two categories of women's economic status: employment and earnings and economic autonomy. Indicators of women's status in each category make up the composite rankings of the counties.

The employment and earnings section presents data on women's annual earnings, the earnings gender gap, female labor force participation rate, the female unemployment rate, and the percentage of women in managerial occupations.

The economic autonomy section includes information on the percentage of businesses owned by women, educational attainment levels, percentage of households headed by a single female, single female headed households living in poverty, percentage of women with health insurance, the high school dropout rate and the teen pregnancy rate.

The **Tennessee Economic Council on Women** was created in 1998 by the Tennessee General Assembly to assess Tennessee women's economic status. The Council develops and advocates solutions to address women's needs in order to help women achieve economic autonomy. In setting its priorities, the Council selects issues that are timely and likely to result in positive changes for women.

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Visit the Tennessee Economic Council on Women at www.tennesseewomen.org

| SOURCES | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Earnings and Employment | |
| Median Annual Earnings for Full Time Employed Females | U.S Census Bureau, 2000 |
| Wage Gap (Female Earnings as a Percentage of Earnings) | U.S Census Bureau, 2000 |
| Female Labor Force Participation Rate | U.S Census Bureau, 2000 |
| Female Unemployment Rate | U.S Census Bureau, 2000 |
| Percent of Employed Females in Management, Professional, and Related Occupations | U.S Census Bureau, 2000 |
| Economic Autonomy | |
| Women-owned Business, Percent of total | Economic Census, 1997 |
| Percent of Females w/4yr Degree or Better | U.S Census Bureau, 2000 |
| Percent of Females with a High School Diploma (or equivalency) | U.S Census Bureau, 2000 |
| Female Dropout Rate | U.S Census Bureau, 2000 |
| Percent of Women with Any Kind of Health Insurance Coverage | Tennessee Department of Health, 2002 |
| Percent of Women Living Below Poverty Level Incomes | U.S Census Bureau, 2000 |
| Percent of all Female Headed Households with Children in Poverty | U.S Census Bureau, 2000 |
| Rate of Pregnancy of Girls Aged 10-19 per 1000 | Tennessee Department of Health, 2002 |
| Voter Demographics and Elected County Officials | National Association of Counties |